

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 165462

EXDIS, FROM NEWSOM FOR AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, AR

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS AND U.S. RELATIONS WITH
ARGENTINA

REF: BUENOS AIRES 4971

1. IN ANY SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATIONS WHICH YOU HAVE WITH
PRESIDENT OR OTHER GOA REPRESENTATIVES I FEEL IT IS IMPOR-
TANT TO MAKE THESE POINTS:

(A) U.S. WISHES SATISFACTORY RELATIONS WITH GOVERNMENT
OF ARGENTINA.

(B) ACTIONS WE ARE DISCUSSING IN HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD
ARE NOT ARBITRARY. THEY REPRESENT INDICATIONS OF WHAT WE
CONSIDER FROM VERY PRACTICAL STANDPOINT OF CONGRESSIONAL
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PAGE 02 STATE 165462

SENTIMENT AS WELL AS BROAD EXECUTIVE POLICY IF WE ARE TO GO
FORWARD WITH PENDING CASES.

(C) U.S. HAS SOUGHT TO BE POSITIVE WHERE IT CAN (I.E.,
RELEASE OF SAFETY EQUIPMENT AND WILLINGNESS TO SELL BOEING
AIRCRAFT) AND IS PREPARED TO RECONSIDER CURRENT ACTIONS IN
THE LIGHT OF ANY SIGNIFICANT MOVEMENT ON AREAS OF HUMAN

RIGHTS PROBLEMS WHICH WE HAVE IDENTIFIED AND HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED AT LENGTH WITH GOA REPRESENTATIVES: (A) PRISONER RELEASES; (B) A MECHANISM FOR ACCOUNTING FOR THE DISAPPEARED; AND (C) THE DESIRABILITY OF INTERNATIONAL INSPECTION. WE REGRET IT HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE FOR GOA TO PROCEED AS WE HAD HOPED AFTER MY VISIT. (NOTE THAT AGREEMENT ON A VISIT BY THE IAIRC DOES NOT HAVE TO AWAIT THEIR OCTOBER MEETING BUT CAN BE DONE BY TELEPHONE POLL PROVIDED ARGENTINE ANSWERS TO IAIRC QUESTIONS LAY THE BASIS FOR A TENTATIVE UNDERSTANDING.)

2. I AM CONCERNED THAT MESSAGE, AS CONVEYED TO VIOLA, MAY GIVE IMPRESSION THAT THESE ARE ARBITRARY U.S. GOVERNMENT ACTIONS. YOU MAY WISH TO REVIEW MY CONVERSATIONS WITH ARGENTINES HERE IN WASHINGTON. I REMINDED THEM THAT WE HAD INDICATED OUR READINESS TO PROCEED WITH MILITARY TRAINING IF THERE WAS A SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN ARGENTINA AND THE IAIRC. THAT HAS NOT YET TAKEN PLACE AND THEREFORE WE ARE CLEARLY NOT IN A POSITION TO PROCEED UNTIL IT DOES.

3. WE DO NOT SEEK CONFRONTATION WITH ARGENTINA ON THIS QUESTION BUT SEEK TO POINT OUT THOSE AREAS WHERE, IF U.S. PROGRAMS ARE TO GO FORWARD, THERE MUST BE SOME MOVEMENT. THIS IS NOT A MATTER OF EXECUTIVE FIAT BUT STEMS FROM THE CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 165462

ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY, CLEAR CONGRESSIONAL EXPRESSIONS, AND PUBLIC OPINION. (HOLD UP IN SHIPMENT OF BOMB FINS TO CHILE BY SAN FRANCISCO LONGSHOREMEN IS JUST ONE EXAMPLE OF TYPE OF PROBLEM THAT CAN BE FACED IF WE DO NOT HAVE SOUND BASIS FOR OUR ACTIONS.) VANCE

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